



USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723)

Commander Naval Submarine Forces

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet

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CDR CHRIS WILLIAMS Commanding Officer

CDR Chris Williams entered the U.S. Naval Academy from California in 1981 and graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering. After his commissioning, he married the former Helen Glanville of Baltimore, Maryland.

Following nuclear power

and basic submarine training, he reported for his first submarine assignment on USS NEVADA (SSBN 733) (GOLD), homeported in Bangor, Washington. While onboard, he served as the Assistant Strategic Weapons Officer and the Main Propulsion Assistant, completing an interfleet transfer and five strategic deterrent patrols from April 1987 to May 1990.

From June 1990 to July 1992, he was assigned to the Naval Academy where he oversaw midshipmen training as the Ninth Company Officer.

After completing advanced submarine training, he deployed to the North Atlantic onboard the USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663) from February to April 1993. He then assumed duties as the Navigation/Operations Officer on USS HARTFORD (SSN 768), homeported in Groton, Connecticut, until June 1995 during the ship's construction, sea trials, and initial operations.

From September 1995 to April 1997, he was the Submarine Operations and ASW Officer for Carrier Group FIVE, embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. During his tour, the INDEPENDENCE Task Group deployed to the CENTCOM AOR, provided contingency response and presence forces in the Western Pacific, and conducted several joint and combined exercises.

Commander Williams attended the Naval War College, in Newport, Rhode Island, from August 1997 to June 1998 where he received his Master of Arts in Strategic Studies and National Security Affairs.

He then served as Executive Officer on USS MIAMI (SSN 755), homeported in Groton, CT, from August 1998 to June 2000. During his tour, MIAMI deployed with the ENTERPRISE Battle Group to the Arabian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea, conducting combat operations against Iraq as part of Operation DESERT FOX and against the Former Republic of Yugoslavia as part of Operation ALLIED FORCE. During his assignment, the MIAMI received the COMSUBRON FOUR Battle Efficiency "E" award and the CINCLANTFLT Battenberg Cup for 1999.

He was assigned to the Navy staff in Washington D.C. from June 2000 to March 2002 where he was the Deputy Branch Head for Plans, Policy, and Liaison in the Submarine Warfare Division.

The Sooner the Better

The first Oklahoma City was a 14,000 ton light cruiser commissioned December 22, 1944. During World War II, Oklahoma City was awarded two Battle Stars for heroic service in the Okinawa campaign and for action against the Japanese homeland.

Decommissioned in 1947, Oklahoma City was recommissioned in 1960 as a Guided Missile Light Cruiser, and became the first Pacific Fleet Combatant to fire the Talos anti-air missile.

Oklahoma City was awarded 13 Battle Stars, 3 Meritorious Unit Citations and a navy Unit Citation for gallant performance of duty during the Vietnam War.

She completed a distinguishing career on December 15, 1979, when she was decommissioned as the 7th Fleet Flagship.

Facts and Figures

- **Builders:** Newport News Shipbuilding Co.; General Dynamics Electric Boat Division
- **Powerplant:** One nuclear reactor, one shaft
- **Length:** 360 feet (109.73 meters)
- **Beam:** 33 feet (10.06 meters)
- **Displacement:** Approx. 6,900 tons (7010.73 metric tons) submerged
- **Speed:** 20+ knots (23+ miles per hour; 36.8+ KPH)
- **Crew:** 13 officers, 121 enlisted
- **Armament:** Tomahawk cruise missiles, VLS tubes (719 and later), MK48 torpedoes, four torpedo tubes